

Means House
Portland, Maine (STROUDWATER)
CUMBERLAND Co.

HABS-No. ME-5

HABS
ME.

3. STROWA

2.

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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"MEANS HOUSE"

Portland, Cumberland County, Maine
(STROUDWATER.)

Owner

Mrs. Mary Swett

Date of Erection

1797

Builder

Captain James Means

Present Condition

Structure is in good state of preservation. There have been minor alterations to the exterior of the house. Original sash have been replaced. Chimneys have been cement plastered over the brick. An entrance door has been added at the South East. Roof has been re-covered with asphalt shingles. In the interior of the house, the original kitchen is now used as the dining room. A section of the original kitchen has been partitioned off to form a storage room. The present kitchen is the former location of the parlor bedroom.

Number of Stories

Two

Materials of Construction

Foundation wall of granite. Floors wide pine boards. Exterior walls front and rear clapboarded. End walls brick. Interior walls and ceilings plastered.

Other Existing Records

Brief history of the house and interior photographs-newspaper clipping in Nathan Gould Deering Scrapbook at Maine Historical Library. History of the Means Family clipped from newspaper Deering News 1997 custody of Maine Historical Library.

Additional Data

Captain James Means was an officer during the Revolutionary War. In 1807 he was elected first senator from the District of Maine. (ref. newspaper clipping Means Family History at Maine Historical Library). The Means family were socially prominent and entertained many notables. General LaFayette was once their guest.

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At the time the Means House was built, Stroudwater was a thriving village, and it is said that the Means House was the finest house in Stroudwater.

There is a fireplace in each room of the house. In the present dining room originally the kitchen, there is the large fire place and ovens for baking and smoking meats. High smoke chamber in chimney with iron racks for hanging meats to be smoked. In the parlor, there is rich hand carved detail in cornice and mantel.

Some of the old sliding shutters to close the windows exist in the frame walls.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Date

Samuel J. Tully
Aug 11 1936

Rec. Aug. 19. 1936

-J.W.